

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 03072 281559Z

61

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 SP-02 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 PRS-01 USIE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 AID-05 OES-06

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O R 281520Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4548

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

MEDDIV COE LIVORNO

CHUSMTM DHAHRAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE 3072

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, MARR, SA, US

SUBJECT: JIDDA WATER CRISIS

1. U.S. CORPS OF ENGINEERS HAVE RECEIVED LETTER FROM
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND WATER ABDUL RAHMAN AL ALSHEIKH
TO ALLEVIATE CURRENT JIDDA WATER CRISIS. TEXT OF LETTER
FOLLOWS.

2. BEGIN TEXT. COL. GEORGE B. GRAY, JR., DISTRICT
ENGINEER, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, RIYADH, SAUDI
ARABIA. DEAR COL. GRAY: PURSUANT TO OUR MEETING WITH
YOU AND YOUR STAFF AND IN LIGHT OF THE BRIEFING PRESENTED,
WE WOULD LIKE TO ADVISE YOU THAT THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
AND WATER CONSIDER THE JEDDAH WATER SHORTAGE THIS YEAR,
AN EMERGENCY.

TO AVOID ANOTHER CRISIS IN JEDDAH, WE WOULD LIKE
TO SEE THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS PROVIDE THE SAME QUALITY
OF PERFORMANCE AND WORK THAT WAS EXERTED DURING LAST
YEAR'S EMERGENCY. TIME IS VERY CRITICAL. ALL WORK
SHOULD BE EXPEDITED WITH THE SAME SENSE OF URGENCY
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PAGE 02 JIDDA 03072 281559Z

PREVIOUSLY DEMONSTRATED BY THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS.

THIS IS TO AUTHORIZE THE U.S. CORPS OF ENGINEERS TO
PROCEED IMMEDIATELY WITH ALL NECESSARY AND REQUIRED WORK
TO BE ACCOMPLISHED TO THE WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM.

IN ORDER TO ACCOMPLISH THIS EMERGENCY WORK, YOUR
REQUEST FOR FUNDS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED IMMEDIATELY.
APPROPRIATE ACTION WILL BE TAKEN BY THE MINISTRY TO
ENSURE THAT ALL NEEDED FUNDS REQUIRED BY THE CORPS OF
ENGINEERS ARE AVAILABLE. SINCELEY, /S/ ABDUL RAHMAN
A. ALSHEIKH, MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND WATER. END
TEXT.

3. PRELIMINARY COE ESTIMATE HAS BEEN MADE ON MEETING
WATER CRISIS NEEDS. MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND WATER
SAYS AMPLE FUNDS AVAILABLE IN MINISTRY BUDGET. MINISTER
WISHED TO DEPOSIT FUNDS IN IRREVOCABLE LETTER OF CREDIT
TO BANK IMMEDIATELY, BUT COE DISTRICT ENGINEERS
INFORMED MINISTER THAT WASHINGTON MUST APPROVE PROJECT
BEFORE FUNDS CAN BE DEPOSITED. COE LEGAL COUNSEL SYANT
CONSIDERS THAT THE ORIGINAL MOU (APRIL 17, 1975) WITHOUT
EXPIRY DATE CONSTITUTES SUFFICIENT AUTHORITY TO CONTINUE
REHABILITATING AND UPGRADING JIDDA WATER SYSTEM.

4. (ROUGH ESTIMATE OF COSTS FOLLOWS.) CONTINUATION
OF THE PERMANENT REPAIR TO THE JIDDA WATER SYSTEM
WHICH WAS DAMAGED IN LAST'S FLOODS IS PRESENTLY
PROGRAMMED AT 40 MILLION SAUDI RYALS (C. \$11.5 MILLION).
ADDITIONAL 25 MILLION SR. (C. \$7 MILLION) IS NEEDED
TO MOBILIZE OTHER CONTRACTORS TO MEET PRESENT CRISIS
FOR THIS SUMMER. THIS WILL INCLUDE DRILLING NEW
WELLS, CONSTRUCTING NEW PIPELINE, WATER TRUCKS TO PROVIDE
WATER TRUCK STANDS, AND A TEAM OF EXPERTS.

5. FOLLOW-ON LONG-RANGE PROJECTS TO DEVELOP BRACKISH
WATER IN ORDER TO AVOID FUTURE CRISES WILL ENSUE
THEREAFTER. PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE REQUEST BRACKISH
WATER PROJECTS MAY RUN AS HIGH AS 150 MILLION SR (C. \$43
MILLION). DETAILS OF THESE AND REQUESTS FOR APPROVAL
WILL BE SUBMITTED IN FUTURE.
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PAGE 03 JIDDA 03072 281559Z

6. EMBASSY HAS REQUESTED THAT SIMILAR LETTER FROM
MIN OF AGRICULTURE AND WATER SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO
AMBASSADOR VIA THE FOREIGN MINISTRY.

7. EMBASSY CONSIDERS REQUEST BY MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
AND WATER SHOULD BE APPROVED. IN ADDITION TO PROBLEM
OF THIRST AND ELEMENTARY SANITATION, HEALTH PROBLEMS

ENSUING FROM CURRENT CRISES ALREADY BECOMING SERIOUS
DUE SEWAGE INFILTRATION INTO LOW PRESSURE AND/OR EMPTY
DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM. FROM EMBASSY'S PRELIMINARY
JUDGMENT, SAUDI GOVERNMENT REGARDS RESOLUTION
OF JIDDA WATER CRISIS EXTREMELY URGENT MATTER.

8. WOULD APPRECIATE EARLY REPLY.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
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Concepts: WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM, ECONOMIC CONDITIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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04 MAY 2006

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TAGS: MASS, MARR, SA, US, CORPS OF ENGINEERS, (GRAY, GEORGE B)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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